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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masahiro MACHIDA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2174

Application No.: 09/810,534

Examiner: P. KE

Filed: March 19, 2001

Docket No.: 108973

For: OPERATING METHOD AND DEVICE, AND IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS  
USING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

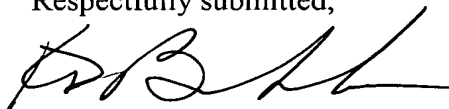
Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance or other action that closes prosecution (e.g., Quayle Action).
- ☒ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☒ 2. An English language Abstract of one or more non-English language reference is attached. See References 1-3.



3. A computer-generated English language translation of one or more Japanese Patent Publication cited herein has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([<http://www.jpo.go.jp>]), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 2 & 3.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:KDB/clf

Date: May 15, 2007

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 (REV. 1/06)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 108973		APPLICATION NO. 09/810,534	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT(S) Masahiro MACHIDA et al.			
				FILING DATE March 19, 2001		GROUP 2174	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Date	Name			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Date	Country	With English Abstract	With English Translation	
	1	JP-A-4-233591	8/21/1992	Japan	X		
	2	JP-A-9-179698	7/11/1997	Japan	X	X	
	3	JP-A-9-244843	9/19/1997	Japan	X	X	
OTHER DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)					
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: May 15, 2007